

THE FAST DAY.

We need not remind our readers that this day has been set apart by recommendation of the President of the United States as a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer, to the end that the American people may duly humble themselves in the sight of Almighty God, and fervently supplicate His mercy and favor in the presence of the great judgment which has fallen on our land.

As trouble does not spring up from the ground, and as we are assured that the curse causeless shall not come upon a people, it behooves all loyal citizens of the nation, this day responding to the invitation of the President, to make inquiry for the guilt which has plucked down the just wrath of Heaven on all parts of our common country. We are called this day not so much to deplore the sins of others, even of our countrymen who are unhappily in arms against the constituted authorities, as our own personal and individual sins, which have contributed their part to swell the iniquities that have invited and merited such a fearful retribution. Where so many garments are rolled in the blood of a fratricidal contest, it is most meet that all who mark the operations of the Divine hand, as well in its heavy chastisements as in the dispensation of its perennial bounties, should with one accord clothe themselves in sackcloth and ashes on a day appointed for the confession of sins and the application of the Divine clemency. We are to purge from our hearts all pride and selfishness, with all malice and uncharitableness, and, instead of cherishing that self-complacency which exalts in the thought of being better than others, we are rather to inquire wherein we, as individuals and as a people, have come short of our duty to God and to our fellow-men, that by returning to the walks of purity, sobriety, and holiness, we may be wise to find those ways which are ways of pleasantness and those paths which are paths of peace.

The spirit in which this self-examination should be made, the motives by which we are incited to humiliation, and the objects for which we should implore the Throne of Heavenly Grace, are so well defined by the President in his proclamation that we cannot do better than reproduce its terms as suggesting the lesson for the day:

THE PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS the Senate of the United States, devoutly recognizing the Supreme Authority and just Government of Almighty God, in all the affairs of men and of nations, has, by a resolution, requested the President to designate and set apart a day for National prayer and humiliation:

And whereas it is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions, in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scripture and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord:

And, inasmuch as we know that, by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishment and chastisement in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war, which now desolates the land, may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole People? We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do, by this my proclamation, designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer. And I do hereby request all the People to abstain on that day from their ordinary secular pursuits, and to unite at their several places of public worship and their respective homes in keeping the day holy to the Lord, and devoted to the humble discharge of the religious duties proper to that solemn occasion.

All this being done, in sincerity and truth, let us then rest humbly in the hope, authorized by the Divine declaration, that the united cry of the Nation will be heard on high, and answered with blessings, no less than the pardon of our national sins, and restoration of our now divided and suffering country to its former happy condition of unity and peace.

A CALL FOR CANDID CONSIDERATION.

Those indiscreet friends of the Administration who seek to forestall candid criticism on its measures, and thereby to assume for it the impunity of an imaginary impeccability, might learn prudence and modesty, as well as common sense, from the following remarks made by Postmaster General BLAIR at the late meeting of Loyal Leagues in Baltimore. Conceding that the Administration commits errors which "lovers of their country are called to deplore," he simply asks, as a part of the Administration, that due allowance should be made for the inexperience of some of its members and for the admitted integrity of its head:

"You recollect, my friends, that the government of this country has been in the exclusive possession, almost for the last quarter of a century, of those who, when it was wrested from them, have turned to strike it dead. What you recollect that circumstance, and it is an important one, going far to excuse such errors as the Administration may commit in carrying on its affairs with the men who are now called upon to administer them, and that these men are necessarily inexperienced and inexperienced in the measures of administration, because the government itself has been in the hands of those who have now rebelled when its control has been wrested from their grasp, it will go far in modification of any errors which you may be called upon, as lovers of your country, to deplore on the part of those who are now intrusted with power. Although I occupy but a very small and unimportant place connected with the general administration, I think, considering all things, and the inexperience of the men who have been charged with the administration, that,—that Mr. Lincoln—who has been so long in the country, and who has secured our efforts will be crowned with glorious results, for to that extent I can answer from an observation of his conduct."

The rumor from Murfreesboro that the rebel General Bragg had been shot dead by General John C. Breckinridge, in a rencontre at Tullahoma, which came from rebel sources, is not confirmed, and is now reported to be untrue.

SLAVERY IN MISSOURI.

We have already announced to our readers that Governor GAMBLE, of Missouri, has issued his proclamation summoning the Convention of that State, by virtue of the authority vested in him, "to assemble at the Capitol, in the city of Jefferson, on the fifteenth day of June next, then and there to consult and act upon the subject of emancipation of slaves, and such other matters as may be connected with the peace and prosperity of the State." He prefaces this call with the following statements:

"The subject of emancipation has now for some time engaged the public mind, and it is of the highest importance to the interest of the State that some scheme of emancipation should be adopted. The General Assembly, at its late session, being convened by constitutional limitations upon its power, failed to adopt any measure upon the subject of emancipation, but clearly indicated a wish that the Convention should be called together to take action upon the subject."

The progress of public sentiment in Missouri, keeping pace with the progress of events, has made it plain that slavery in that State is doomed to a certain, if not a speedy extinction. This result was predicted by the friends of the Union, who there as elsewhere warned the secession agitators that, in stirring up sedition against the Constitution and the Laws, they were undermining the basis of that domestic institution and peculiar social system in whose name and interests they assumed to speak. "Among those who uttered these significant warnings was Governor GAMBLE, who has lived to witness the confirmation of all his predictions under this head."

The St. Louis Daily Union, in commenting on the Governor's call of the Convention, holds the following language:

"No intelligent mind doubts that slavery in Missouri is doomed to a speedy extinction. Whether, if the institution were vigorously and promptly suppressed, whether it could enjoy such a flourishing growth as to make Missouri emphatically a Slave State, able to rely exclusively on slave labor for the production of wealth, it would then be wise to nourish it, is a question we need not debate, since the hypothesis can never be realized. The alternative is presented of having a Free State, with all the advantages of a free labor, or of having it suffer all the disadvantages of a Slave State without having in fact slave labor. While it remains in name a Slave State it will continue to repel what its present necessities imperatively demand—an influx of foreign labor and capital; it will be unable to attract the credit which free labor, industry, and enterprise will always command. No State in the Union ought to have a firmer credit than Missouri. The largest in area, except Texas, east of the Rocky Mountains, it is second to none in fertility of soil and salubrity of climate, in the variety and exuberance of its vegetable productions, and in the boundless wealth of its mineral resources. The rich soil of its plains covers exhaustless beds of stone coal. Its mountains are full of iron and other minerals. The hardy and energetic people of the State are capable of producing the fruits of the South blossom in the same garden."

"It is not so important that slavery be at once removed as that it be put in the course of speedy and certain removal. But its absolute removal should not be fixed at a remote date. The laborer abroad would refuse to fix his permanent residence in a State in which he would have to spend all his days by the side of slaves. Nor would the capitalist invest where the wealth of the State would be developed only after he had ceased to live. To prevent any death of labor and any shock of industrial revolution, emancipation should be graduated, but graduated by rapid steps. Hence the propriety of the suggestion we lately submitted, that the ordinance of the Convention should provide that all children of slaves born after the 4th day of next July shall be born free, to be apprenticed to some useful trade or profession in a manner to be prescribed by law. It should also be provided that, at some early day, say July 4th, 1873, slavery shall expire by limitation. Under this plan there will be no violence of change, and the gradual disappearance of slave labor will be counterbalanced by the gradual influx of free labor which the certain and speedy removal of the former will invite."

"To this plan it is clear that no true friend of emancipation can object. It is peaceful, certain, and just. It effects the desiderated object in a manner that cannot disquiet any honest citizen, or produce any industrial disturbance. None can oppose it with reason, and none will oppose it who are not reckless of the interests of the State, reckless of the success of emancipation, reckless of every thing save their own self-aggrandizement and the furtherance of their own partisan purposes."

DECLARATIONS OF MR. SLIDELL.

M. Emile de Girardin, the well-known publicist, of Paris, stated some time ago that, in a conversation with Mr. Slidell, the Confederate "Commissioner," in that city, the latter had assured him that "the South was disposed to disencumber itself of slavery, which was rather injurious than advantageous to it." This statement was reproduced by M. F. Gaillardet in his regular correspondence from Paris with the New York *Courier des Etats-Unis*.

The paragraph having been recently brought to the notice of Mr. Slidell, he has taken exception to the report of his conversation with M. Girardin, and, in his last letter under date of April 3, M. Gaillardet makes the following rectifications:

"Mr. Slidell acknowledges that he said to M. Girardin that the slavery of the South was rather injurious than advantageous to it. But he would not tolerate a mingling of the two races, and that the deportation of the negroes was at once the condition and the difficulty of their emancipation. But he has not declared that 'the South was disposed to disencumber itself of slavery, which was rather injurious than advantageous to it.' Mr. Slidell could not have made such a declaration for three reasons: The first is, that he has no authority to make it, and that the Government at Richmond would not more have it than he, as the question of emancipation can be raised only by the several States, and not by the Central Government. The second reason is, that if slavery is destined to disappear one day, or to be modified like all human institutions, this would not take place on the morrow of a revolution, when the first necessity of the South will be to repair its losses. The third reason is, that the South means to decide this question in full liberty, by its sole authority, and will not make it, in any event, the condition of its recognition by Europe."

The last two reasons, if read in the light of Mr. Benjamin's letter to Mr. Commissioner Lamar, instructing him not to enter into any stipulations with the Russian Government against the slave trade, would seem to be significant of a settled purpose on the part of the Richmond authorities to leave an opening for the revival of that traffic should the Seceded States succeed in establishing their independence, and judge it necessary or expedient "to repair their losses" in the matter of slaves by fresh importations from Africa. This "repair of losses," says Mr. Slidell, will be "the first necessity of the South" on the morrow of its success in converting a revolt into a "revolution." And as he makes this statement in connection with slavery and in presence of the known fact that the Richmond authorities refuse to bind the Seceded States by any stipulations with foreign Powers not to revive the slave trade, it would seem that the inference suggested by his language flows naturally from the circumstances under which this language is held as well as from its own purport.

GEN. HOOKER'S ARMY IN MOTION.

We shall not be announcing any thing, we presume, not already known in the city, when we state generally that General Hooker commenced, at daybreak yesterday morning, a forward movement. Heavy masses of artillery and other troops were crossing the river at sunrise.

DETECTIVE SHERMAN NOT HUNG.

The commander at Fort Ethan Allen, Virginia side of the Potomac, telegraphs that he learns that the rebels did not hang Detective Sherman on Friday last, as reported.

GEN. HOOKER'S TESTIMONY.

It will be remembered by our regular readers that several months ago a Washington correspondent of one of the New York papers announced that Gen. Hooker, in giving his testimony before the Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War, had avowed the opinion that the failure of the Peninsula campaign was due to a want of generalship on the part of the Commander of the Army of the Potomac.

This allegation, allowed to transpire in advance of the publication of the committee's report, was denied at the time by a contemporary in this city, which believed itself to have good authority for saying that Gen. Hooker had made no such statement before the committee. The denial, as relating to a topic of interesting personal and military concern, was reproduced in our columns.

Now that we have before us the report of the evidence taken by the committee—at least of so much as they have thought proper to give, for in one part we discern the marks of suppression—it is incumbent on us to say that the statement ascribed to Gen. Hooker was genuine, however surreptitiously promulgated. The opening words of his testimony are reported by the committee as follows:

"WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1863.

"Major General Joseph Hooker, sworn and examined by the Chairman:

"Question: To what do you attribute the failure of the Peninsula campaign?

"Answer: I do not hesitate to say that it is to be attributed to the want of generalship on the part of our commander."

Having made this correction to remove an erroneous impression which might otherwise remain on the minds of our readers as to the opinions of Gen. Hooker, it may be proper for us to add that in the body of his testimony he makes no attempt to conceal his humble estimate of the military capacity of both Gen. McClellan and Gen. Burnside, by whom the Army of the Potomac had the misfortune to be commanded before the Government discovered his superior abilities. Speaking of Gen. McClellan's dilatory motions immediately after the battle of Williamsburg, Gen. Hooker says:

"Answer: I think we could have moved right on, and got into Richmond by the second day after that battle, without another gun being fired. "Question: What was done?" "Answer: We moved on in a manner I never did understand. I think, if there was any necessity for that I have never yet appreciated it. So far as the best information we have goes the enemy had abandoned the idea of defending Richmond; and it was only when they saw the lassitude and inefficiency of our army that they concluded to make a stand there."

The Committee on the Conduct of the War seem to have thrown some inferential discredit on this branch of the General's testimony, for their report of the battle of Williamsburg is as follows:

"The principal fighting was done by the troops under Gen. Hooker, his division sustaining a loss of about 700 men. Before he was reinforced his troops were obliged to hold their position with the bayonet and such ammunition as the men could obtain from the bodies of those who had fallen, the roads being so muddy that it was impossible to bring up fresh ammunition."

As the distance from Williamsburg to Richmond is about sixty miles, and as the roads at that time were so muddy that it was impossible to bring up fresh ammunition while the fight was going on, it may occur to some minds that the same causes which detained the ammunition wagons may have delayed the general advance of the entire army from Williamsburg; for, if these ammunition wagons could not be brought up a few miles, it might have been equally impossible to advance at the rate of twenty-five or thirty miles per day from Williamsburg to Richmond with all the artillery and material of the Army of the Potomac.

We believe General Hooker to be a very energetic commander, but we question whether any "generalship" was quite equal to the achievement which he exacted under this head at the hands of his commander. How mud and bad weather may suffice to keep the most active General out of Richmond he has himself illustrated for many weeks past by remaining motionless at about the same distance from that city as Williamsburg is. Now that these causes are supposed no longer to exist, or to exist only in a degree which is comparatively inappreciable, we may at least rejoice that his testimony gives hostages in pledge of his purpose to demonstrate a capacity to impress on the Army of the Potomac that celerity of movement which it has heretofore lacked, for no other reason than the incapacity, as Gen. Hooker conceives, of the two commanders who preceded him.

The New York Tribune, in reproducing the testimony of Gen. Hooker, with special reference to the condemnation he pronounces on Gen. McClellan, accompanies it with the following useful observation:

"Aside from its historical value, Gen. Hooker's evidence has a special interest at this moment when he is in command of the Army of the Potomac, and supposed to be nearly ready to begin what is meant to be a final campaign. It is not merely on account of what he did while holding a subordinate command; it is a frank declaration of what he thought his Chief-in-Chief ought to have done; it is a criticism not less than a history. The nation, which has trusted him with its chief army, will look to this record for a standard by which to measure his performance; it will expect to discover in him those soldierly qualities and the ability for command which McClellan had not; and in the broader field now before him will anticipate the display of that courage and genius which will lead the Army of the Potomac to victory and to Richmond."

This is quite true. The country will also expect to discover in Gen. Hooker "those soldierly qualities and the ability for command" which he denied to be possessed by Gen. Burnside. For, in giving his testimony on the Fredericksburg disaster, he said that, in the dilatory and uncertain steps which preceded it, "the same mistake was made that had been made all along through this war," and he adds that the attack, as actually made, failed simply because Gen. Burnside "put men to do a work that no men could do." This was certainly a grievous oversight, and as the country very generally concurs with Gen. Hooker in the opinion thus proclaimed, it hopes to see no repetition of such blunders under his direction. Certain it is that he has every incentive of personal ambition, as well as of patriotic devotion, to show himself worthy of the great and noble army which has heretofore proved its courage and fortitude on so many stricken fields, and which, with serried ranks, is now marching to give fresh battle under his conduct.

And Gen. Hooker must be aware that, apart from the interest shared in common with the country, there are some peculiar and particular reasons why the military authorities in Washington must watch his progress with much solicitude. For he cannot be insensible to the fact that the

great discrimination made by the President in his favor in placing upon him the obligation of demonstrating that that favor has not been misplaced. When General Pope made representations to the effect that he had not been properly and loyally sustained by Gen. Fitz John Porter, the latter was subsequently relieved of his command and put on trial, which resulted in his conviction and dismissal from the army. When Gen. Burnside made similar representations against Gen. Hooker, and even called for his summary dismissal without trial, (if we may regard as genuine a recent contradicted publication,) not only was Gen. Hooker not dismissed the service, but his accuser was relieved from command; not only was Gen. Hooker not relieved from command, but he was not even placed on trial; and not only was he not placed on trial, but he received a new proof of the confidence reposed in him by the Administration. It was the accuser in this case who was relieved from his command while the accused was promoted to take his place. Where such discriminations are made in favor of an officer, the duty of doing all that is in his power to justify the partiality shown to him becomes intensified by considerations the most imperative, and which the military advisers of the Administration at least cannot dismiss from their minds, as they follow the operations of Gen. Hooker, with the consciousness how largely their own reputation, as well as the national cause, must depend upon the issues of the campaign now opening under his auspices.

"TREASON AT HEADQUARTERS."

The New York Examiner is a religious-political journal, not less distinguished for its hearty devotion to the present Administration than for its zeal in defending the peculiar religious dogmas represented in its columns. Yet even a paper thus pledged to the support of the military authorities who are conducting the war has had its faith in them shaken by the Report of the Congressional Committee on the Conduct of the War. In its last number our contemporary, under the head of "Treason at Headquarters," holds the following language:

"The quick and sure intelligence which the rebels have, not merely of the movements, but of the plans of our armies, deserves more attention from the Government than it seems to have received. It is stated as an unquestionable fact that the assignment of Gen. Burnside to command the Army of the Ohio, and the transfer of the Ninth Army Corps to his department, were well known to the rebels before they were initiated to the local public. The removal of Gen. Butler, unexpected as it was at the North, was known to the rebels before the order was carried into effect. But the most striking instance is testified by Gen. Burnside, as reported by the Committee on the Conduct of the War. He planned a movement against the enemy which he communicated personally to the President, the Secretary of War, Gen. Halleck, and to two members of his own staff. It was known and openly talked of by rebel sympathizers in Washington on the very next day, showing that there is treason in the highest quarters."

"Now, these are facts which ought not to be merely looked at with stupid wonder. The rebels have spies among the persons who are in the confidence of our Government. It may be difficult, but it cannot be impossible, to track the guilty parties and dismiss them, by the hang man's hands, to the state in which they will 'tell no tale.' We talk of the fidelity with which Mr. Buchanan allowed traitors in his Cabinet to plot the ruin of the Government under his very unsuspecting nose. But how much better is an Administration which harbors spies in its very council chamber, and submits to the shame as if it were a law of its being!"

When a secret is entrusted to five persons, of whom one is the President, one a Cabinet Minister, and one the General-in-Chief, it ought not to be thought impossible to find out who has betrayed it. The discovery and condign punishment of even one such traitor would have the effect to deter others. Forbearance toward them is cruelty to the innocent, and a deadly injury to the cause of the country."

It is in such comments as these that we may read the mischief done by the committee when they insinuate that either the President, the Secretary of War, or the General-in-Chief allowed the plans of Gen. Burnside to be divulged to "rebel sympathizers" in this city. Names which should be above suspicion or reproach are flippantly associated, for no other reason than that furnished by the innuendoes of the committee, with an act of the gravest indiscretion, if not of wilful high treason, calling for condign punishment. It is thus that idle words, when uttered in high places, fly like thistle-down, and scatter broadcast the seeds of popular distrust and slander.

THE REVOLT IN POLAND.

The London Times announces that despatches for St. Petersburg were sent on the 10th instant from London, Paris, and Vienna, with instructions to the representatives of Great Britain, France, and Austria at that city to read those despatches to Prince Gortchakoff, and to deliver copies of them. They are couched in friendly terms, but all convey an intelligible warning to the Russian Government.

The Russian Government on their side have sent Gen. Berg to Warsaw to supersede the Grand Duke Constantine. Vigor without cruelty is said to be the spirit of his instructions.

The Times adds that the Polish rebellion appears to gather strength and resources from despair and fresh confidence at the very moment when cold calculations, based on the ordinary events of ordinary war, would have led us to suppose that nothing remained but abject and complete submission. The Times has hopes of amelioration in the policy of Russia towards Poland, owing to the internal condition of the Russian Empire.

An Imperial manifesto was issued at St. Petersburg April 11, granting a full and entire amnesty to all the Poles in the kingdom and the western provinces who lay down their arms and return to their allegiance by the 13th of May, ordinary crimes and military offences excepted. The manifesto announces that certain institutions granted to Poland shall be maintained, and that, after practical experience of them, others shall be developed according to the necessities of the age and country.

THE PRIZE STEAMER PETERHOFF.

In the United States District Court at New York on Saturday last, Judge BETTS presiding, the United States District Attorney and Mr. Upton, the counsel for the captors, appeared to move that the cargo of the Peterhoff be unloaded and examined, for the purpose of ascertaining its nature and whether it was contraband of war. Mr. Tunis, of the U. S. Navy, had made an affidavit that the papers found on board did not fully describe the cargo except as merchandise, boots, shoes, and blankets; that when the capture of the vessel appeared inevitable, papers supposed to be bills of lading were thrown overboard; that the bills of lading found were made deliverable to order to some person who was a passenger in the vessel. For these reasons counsel desired to have the cargo examined. The motion was opposed by Mr. F. A. Smith for the claimants. The Judge granted the motion for an order to open and examine the cargo.

FROM LOUISIANA.

NEW ORLEANS, APRIL 29.—The Post has a report via New Orleans that a paymaster, with \$600,000 for our troops, was on board the steamer Fox, captured by the rebels.

A REBEL RUT IN MISSOURI.

ST. LOUIS, APRIL 29.—The Democrat's correspondent with Gen. Vandever's command says:

"About ten o'clock on Monday night a rebel regiment, being the advance guard of Marmaduke's army, which was then retreating from Cape Girardeau, were surprised three miles west of Jackson. Two small howitzers loaded with musket balls were hauled by hand within thirty yards of them, and simultaneously discharged, killing and wounding a large number. At the same time the First Iowa Cavalry charged upon them, and not a man of the entire regiment is supposed to have escaped—all who were not killed or wounded being taken prisoners. All of their guns, horses, camp equipage, and several thousand dollars worth of stolen property was captured by our party. Early the next morning Gen. Vandever advanced and saw the main body of the enemy in full retreat. He immediately followed, keeping up a constant artillery fire on their rear. At two o'clock P. M. he was joined by General McNeil and the combined forces continued pursuit. Firing was heard all the afternoon, and it is scarcely possible that the rebels can escape."

"Marmaduke's command consists of Missourians, Arkansians, and Texans. They left Poughatam, (Arkansas,) on the 15th instant, ostensibly for the purpose of occupying Pilot Knob and Cape Girardeau as a base of operations for a projected expedition under Price this summer, but really for plunder."

"A force composed of four brigades, under Gen. Shelby, Cole, Burbridge and Green, with ten pieces of artillery, the first Nebraska Infantry, under Col. Bauger, did most of the fighting in the rebel attack on Cape Girardeau, and behaved with great gallantry. They were posted in the woods about a mile from the town and kept Marmaduke's whole force in check while the guns from the forts played upon them, doing considerable execution. The rebel batteries did no injury to the town. The enemy's loss was about sixty killed and twenty-five wounded."

ANOTHER CAPTURE BY THE ALABAMA.

The barque General Cobb, arrived at New York from Gibraltar on the 23d instant, reports that on the 8th instant, in latitude 37.07, longitude 39.15, she was boarded by a boat from the ship *Morning Star*, of Boston, from Calcutta for London, which reported that she had been captured by the pirate Alabama in latitude 20 north, and released after giving bonds to the amount of \$50,000.

The British brig Ocean Pearl, of Windsor, (N. S.) Capt. Dexter, from Ponce, Porto Rico, on the 16th instant, reports that the Confederate steamer Alabama arrived off the harbor of Ponce on the evening of the 7th instant, and sent a schooner tender into port for powder and coal and was supplied them by the Spanish authorities. She sailed the same night.

THE NATIONAL LOAN.

PHILADELPHIA, APRIL 28.—Jay Cooke, general subscription agent, reports the sale of two millions of the twenty-year loan to day, distributed in different States. The sales are restricted in a great measure by delay in furnishing the bonds, which the registers of the Department are using every effort to overcome. Every day brings subscriptions from new districts, and while it increases the work of the Department it serves the double purpose of supplying means to crush out the rebellion, and affords more evidence of the loyalty of districts which were formerly thought to be doubtful.

FROM KEY WEST.

We have news from Key West to the 21st. There were in port about thirty prize vessels, whose cases were yet to be disposed of by the court, and almost every day additions were made to the number. The gunboat Saginaw, during a cruise up the west coast, had destroyed two blockade runners, loaded with cotton and grain, at Bay Port, after a sharp contest with the rebels. Brig. Gen. Woodbury and staff had arrived at Key West and assumed command of the military district, which embraces Pensacola, Fort Jefferson, and Key West.

THE UNION FORCES IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

ALL READY FOR BATTLE.

Correspondence of the New York Tribune.

HILTON HEAD, (S. C.) APRIL 20, 1863.

The second expedition has not yet sailed, but is ready at any moment to receive the order. The same transports which have been in and out of the harbor so many times are again laden with troops, not quite as jubilant or cheerful as when they set sail three weeks since, but not by any means hopeless or disheartened. The army in the Department of the South has not yet had its mettle fairly tried. The battles on James' Island and at Pocotaligo, although by some called repulses, demonstrated that if led by competent officers no fears need be entertained that victory will await them if not overwhelmingly outnumbered. Having been comparatively idle for more than a year, a fight would be looked upon by them as a godsend, and would, if possible, be entered into with too much ardor. It is to be hoped that this patriotic flame may not be smothered and allowed to go out through the want of skill on the part of superior officers to furnish the opportunity for it to manifest itself in heroic deeds as well as noble words.

The Monitor fleet, together with the army, is also ready. The Patapsco and the Montauk are now moving out of the harbor, bound for Folly Island. Before the close of this week all the iron-clads in this department again will be within the bar of Charleston. When the sea is back will be reopened it is difficult to say; but that another and more desperate engagement, in which both the army and the navy will this time participate, is near at hand no one can doubt. Charleston must be in our possession sooner or later. How much sooner it is almost impossible to say. The march already set is almost upon us. Troops and blankets drop by the wayside. We begin to hear of typhoid and typhus in the hospitals. Something must be done immediately, or in the spring campaign will have closed in disgrace to the national arms, and the department of the South, up to the present moment, will not have, to say the least, a very brilliant record in history.

From Edisto and Stono this morning we learn that the rebels are strengthening their lines of earthworks upon John's and James' Islands, are mounting the forts along Edisto and Stono rivers, and are daily growing more belligerent and manifesting a disposition to take the offensive themselves. Desperate that troops from Savannah are being sent to Charleston and put to work upon earthworks along Wappoo creek, between Stono river, and that an effort is being made to make Charleston impregnable.

The old pro-slavery disloyal mutinous spirit has not entirely disappeared from some of the regiments in this department. Col. Rust, of the Eighth Maine, a loyal and capable officer, who has discovered in every particular to carry out the views of the Commanding General of this department, upon discovering that a few of his officers were plotting to thwart his efforts, solely because he was in favor of standing by his General and the Administration, reported the case to headquarters. General Hunter, with his usual promptness in such matters, immediately telegraphed to Beaufort, where the Eighth Maine was stationed, an order to have the mutinous officers arrested. This morning Lieut. Col. Twitchell and Dr. Mitchell had the opportunity to resign or be discharged in disgrace from the army. They have accepted the first alternative. It is evident that Gen. Hunter is determined to crush the least symptoms of disloyal insubordination.

Gen. Hunter yesterday spent the day at Beaufort, and, with the Rev. Mr. French, visited the negro Sabbath-schools and churches.

Some rebel officer desired to communicate with Gen. Hunter by flag of truce at Fort Royal Ferry, instructed the officer bearing it to hold no intercourse with any officer commanding a negro regiment along the South coast, and that an effort was being made to make Charleston impregnable.

From Florida we learn that there are no rebels in arms east of St. John's river. Col. Putnam, of the Seventh New Hampshire, in command at St. Augustine, is to return to Hilton Head and take command of a brigade in the division of Gen. Terry. A sufficient force will still be left at St. Augustine and Fernandina to hold them against any force the rebels can bring against them.

The Clerk of the United States Prize Court has also issued with about \$300,000 of Government funds. He obtained permission to visit Havana for the alleged purpose of procuring a sword which was to be presented to Col. Good by certain parties in Key West who were allowed to remain after the arrival of that officer to take command.

LIVERPOOL STEAMER WRECKED.

MANY LIVES LOST.

ST. JOHN'S, (N. F.) APRIL 27, via PORT HODGSON.—The steamship Anglo Saxon sailed from Liverpool on the 16th instant, with three hundred and sixty passengers and a ship's crew of eighty-four men. She was wrecked four miles east of Cape Race to day (27th) during a dense fog. Seventy-three persons escaped from the wreck by ropes and spars, and twenty-four more in No. 2 life boat, making a total saved of ninety-seven. Numbers 4 and 6 boats have not yet arrived off Cape Race in consequence of the density of the fog. Seven more persons who embarked on a raft are also missing. There is still a heavy sea and a dense fog.

The commander of the ship is supposed to be among those drowned. The purser and first and second engineers and the surgeon are saved, and one cabin passenger. Lieutenant Sampson, of the Royal Artillery, and Hon. John Young and family are supposed to be in one of the missing boats.

The deck broke up about an hour after the ship struck. Nothing but the mizen mast is standing. Several persons clung to the fore rigging till the foremast fell, but no assistance could be rendered them.

Guns are being fired at Cape Race to attract the attention of the missing boats.

SECOND DISPATCH.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F.—The steamer Dauntless this morning (28th) picked up two boats, containing ninety persons, among them the following:

Hon. John Young, wife, seven children, and servant; Miss Hope, Miss Bertram, Mrs. Capt. Stoddart, Mr. Green, mail officer; Mr. Lowers, Rev. Mr. Eaton, Capt. Cassidy, Mrs. Jackson and child, Mr. Wright, John Martin, James Kirkwood and child, Mrs. Eliza James, Catharine Cameron, Mary Ann Thomas, Mrs. Ann Adams, Edward Manna, Thomas Caldwell, Mr. Hart, first officer; Mr. Scott, fourth officer, and James Henderson, fourth engineer.

Charles Carson, fifth engineer of the steamer Bloodhound, has gone to Cape Race for the persons there. The weather is very fine and clear on the coast to-day.

THE SIEGE OF PUEBLA IN MEXICO.

SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 28.—The steamer Constitution has arrived from Panama. She brings dates, via Asapulco, from the city of Mexico to the 8th instant, and from Puebla to the 6th. Since the 31st instant the French had kept up a constant bombardment of the latter city. They had destroyed the convent of San Augustine and six blocks of buildings with no special progress towards occupying the city. The fight was continuing on the 6th. Comonfort, with fifteen thousand men, was defending the road leading towards the city of Mexico, having continued skirmishes with the French. This news is from Mexican sources; same authority stating that but a small portion of the obstacles in the way of the capture of the city of Puebla were yet overcome.

NEW YORK, APRIL 29.—Vera Cruz dates to the 5th instant state that the Mexican guerrillas had captured a camp of railroad laborers near Vera Cruz, destroying and carrying off all the property there. Several other similar camps near Tejeria were also captured and sacked, and some twenty laborers were killed, and fifty or sixty wounded. It is stated that the French are making very slight progress in Mexico. Reinforcements for their army were constantly arriving.

CAPTURE OF TEXAN TROOPS.

NASHVILLE, (TENN.) APRIL 27.—A part of Gen. Green Clay Smith's brigade, consisting of two hundred and fifty cavalry, commanded by Col. Watkins, of the Sixth Kentucky, this morning made a dash upon the rebel camp of the First Texas Legion, eight miles south of Franklin, on Carter's Creek pike, and captured one hundred and twenty-eight rebels, including three captains, five lieutenants, the usual number of horses, fifty mules, one ambulance loaded with medical stores, and burned eight wagons and the arms of the rebels. Col. Brooks, commanding the rebel camp, was captured, but subsequently escaped. The rebels formed a party of Gen. Whitfield's